

Environmental Issue Assignment

Student's Name



Topic: Controversy Surrounding the Hunting of Grey Wolves

Original article:

Glenza J. 19 November 2014. Idaho Hunters
Target Gray Wolves in Controversial Predator
Derby




Hunting for Grey Wolves in Idaho

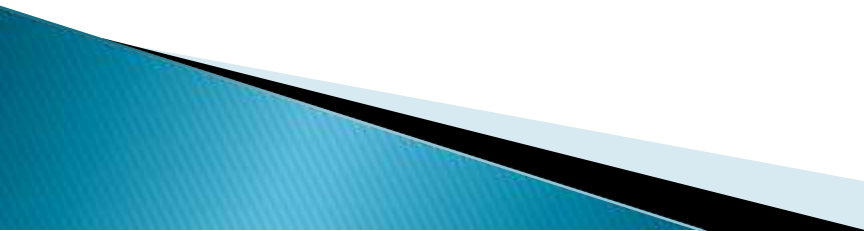
- ▶ For the first time after many years gray wolf hunting has been legalized in the United States.
- ▶ Ranchers find this as good news; a good example is Cindy Siddoway of Terreton of Idaho whose sheep are under threat every day by wolves.
- ▶ She has worked very hard to protect what she has but it was to no avail. Gray wolves prey her sheep, and she can do nothing to ensure this will not happen.



Hunting for grey wolves in Idaho, in which way?

- ▶ Not everyone is familiar with hunting for wolves.
 - ▶ Many residents find it controversial that the hunt commenced recently in Idaho and Montana but the schedule indicates that it began in September.
 - ▶ Animal and environmental rights groups are against the decision passed by the federal's this year.
 - ▶ The decision was to remove gray wolves that live in the Rocky Mountains of the north from the list of endangered species.
 - ▶ The rights group has filed a suit in U.S District of Montana to reverse the decision and stop the hunting.
 - ▶ Donald Molloy is supposed to rule on the case, but the day is yet to be known.
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Government involvement

- ▶ Meanwhile, the federal government through the Federal Bureau of Land Management has issued hunting permits to residents.
 - ▶ The state has organized an event cum competition named as 'predator derby' for locals to participate in hunting for the grey Wolves.
 - ▶ A maximum of 500 locals are allowed to participate in the event.
 - ▶ The event will be organized 3 times a year for a period of 5 years.
 - ▶ Since the event will be held in Salmon town, it is likely to attract over three thousand residents in the town.
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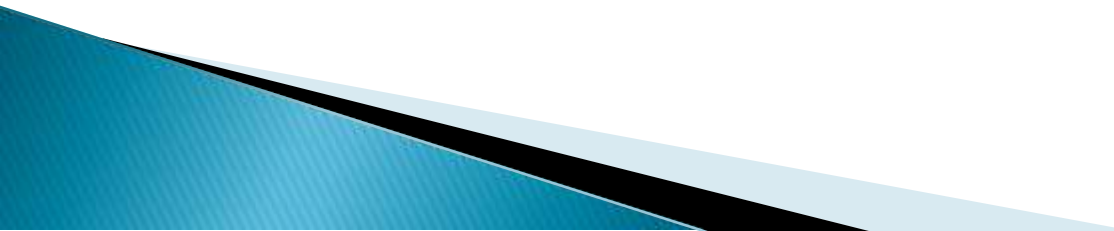
The dynamic of grey wolves population

- The population of the gray wolves reduced in the Rockies during the last century due to practices like trapping because they were classified as endangered species.
- Their population has risen as the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service noted.
- A picture of the grey wolves in the wolf park.




- There is determination that the population will be healthy enough for hunts to be allowed in Montana and Idaho, which control the population of the wolves.

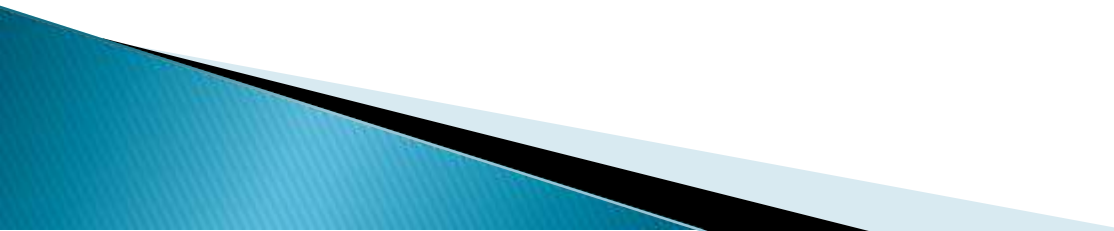
The dynamic of grey wolves population (cont.)

- In Wyoming, there is no permission for the hunt as the state has a weak wildlife management as indicated by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - Opponents of the wolf hunt say that the population is not healthy and large to permit the hunt.
 - The spokeswoman of Sierra Club, Melanie Stein made an observation that the population of the wolves is on the brink of recovery.
 - Thus, the hunting shows a step backward from the expected recovery of the wolves' population.
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Different options to handling the grey wolves menace

- ▶ Siddoway thinks the hunt will not make much difference due to the difficulty involved in hunting the animals.
 - ▶ He holds the belief that wolf attacks will take their toll.
 - ▶ Ed Bangs believes there are tools used to counter wolves without specifically hunting them down.
 - ▶ The tools include scare tactics, for instance, proper fencing or the use of firecrackers out of a shotgun.
 - ▶ There is a program that compensates the people who lose their livestock due to attacks, but the funds only represent part of the herd.
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Conclusion

- ▶ Officials believe that up to 330 wolves in the cities of Montana and Idaho are likely to be killed during this public hunt.
 - ▶ In Idaho, the Nez Perce people can kill approximately 40 wolves.
 - ▶ However, Siddoway believes that the information provided is not adequate to convince environmental groups into agreeing the hunting of wolves.
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Reference

Glenza, J. (2014, November 19). Idaho hunters target gray wolves in controversial predator derby. Retrieved November 24, 2014, from <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/19/idaho-hunters-gray-wolf-predator-derby>

Thank you

